

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01204 201738Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
SAJ-01 NSC-05 /065 W
-----210258Z 117784 /63

R 201729Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4898
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01204

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MILI, AWACS, GW
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION SKEPTICISM ABOUT AWACS

REF: BONN 21260 DTG 171714Z DEC 76

1. A CDU POLITICAL/MILITARY EXPERT ASSOCIATED WITH THE KONRAD ADENAUER FOUNDATION OUTSIDE OF BONN HAS TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION WAS EXTREMELY SKEPTICAL OF THE AWACS PROJECT. HE SAID THAT OPPOSITION DEFENSE SPOKESMAN WOERNER, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE STEINHOFF, FORMER FMOD INTELLIGENCE CHIEF REAR ADMIRAL POSER AND HIMSELF HAD MET ABOUT A MONTH AGO TO DISCUSS THE PROJECT. THE UPSHOT OF THEIR DISCUSSION WAS THAT THEY DOUBTED THE SURVIVABILITY OF THE SYSTEM IN A WAR IN CENTRAL EUROPE. ACCORDINGLY, THEY DID NOT BELIEVE IT MADE SENSE TO SPEND SO MUCH MONEY FOR A SYSTEM WHICH COULD NOT SURVIVE UNDER COMBAT CONDITIONS. THE GROUP ALSO FELT THAT THERE WAS, IN FACT, NO MONEY
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FOR AWACS AVAILABLE WITHIN THE PROJECTED FRG DEFENSE BUDGETS FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. ANY FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT WOULD HAVE TO BE IN ADDITION TO REGULAR DEFENSE FUNDS AND SPECIFICALLY APPROPRIATED BY THE BUNDESTAG DEFENSE AND BUDGET COMMITTEES.

2. COMMENT: THE ABOVE REMARKS REAFFIRM THE PUBLIC

STATEMENT ISSUED BY BUNDESTAG DEPUTY HANDLOS (REFTEL)
THAT THE CDU/CSU WOULD TAKE A VERY HARD LOOK AT ANY
RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT TO COMMIT FUNDS
FOR AWACS. SINCE WOERNER IS THE DEFENSE SPOKESMAN FOR
THE OPPOSITION, WE BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT HIS SKEP-
TICISM VIS-A-VIS AWACS IS PROBABLY WIDELY SHARED WITHIN
THE OPPOSITION. THE OPPOSITION VIEW COULD, OF COURSE,
POSSIBLY BE EXPLOITED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO DELAY ITS
OWN COMMITMENT TO THE AWACS PROGRAM.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, AIR DEFENSE, OPPOSITION PARTIES, WARNING SYSTEMS, FOREIGN COMMITMENTS, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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TAGS: MILI, GE, NATO
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